

Message Text

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ACTION SY-10

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R 171306Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3242

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8404

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CY

SUBJECT: PROTECTIVE SECURITY

FROM RSO ROCHE

REF: NICOSIA 1545; STATE 137941

1. RSO RECOMMENDED TO POST THAT ONLY THREE PSU MEMBERS NEEDED BUT RECOMMENDATION BASED PRIMARILY ON AMBASSADOR'S PROTECTION SINCE IT IS UNKNOWN WHAT AMOUNT OF PROTECTION FOR FAMILY DEPARTMENT WILL ALLOW. WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE ON UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES PSU MEMBERS MAY ACCOMPANY AMBASSADOR'S WIFE OR CHILDREN AND SCOPE OF PROTECTION.

2. PRESENTLY PSU MEMBERS USUALLY WORKING ONLY SEVERAL HOURS EACH DAY. SINCE AMBASSADOR RESIDES IN CHANCERY, HIS MOVEMENTS GREATLY REDUCED. RSO SUGGESTED TO POST THAT ONE PSU MEMBER RIDE IN FRONT SEAT OF AMBASSADOR'S CAR AND THAT TWO CYPRIOT POLICEMEN RIDE IN FOLLOW CAR. THUS RSO ASKED POST TO PUT TWO PSU MEMBERS ON TWO SEPARATE EIGHT-HOUR SHIFTS EACH DAY. IT WAS ENVISIONED THAT THIRD MAN WOULD BE OFF DUTY. THUS EACH MAN WOULD WORK TWO DAYS ON AND ONE DAY OFF. DURING EACH EIGHT-HOUR WORKING SHIFT, MAN ON DUTY PROBABLY WILL NORMALLY SPEND MOST OF TIME ON STANDBY AT PSU HOUSE.

3. IF DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT PSU MEMBERS SHOULD RIDE IN FOLLOW CAR AND ALSO INSPECT EACH SITE IN ADVANCE OF AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL IN ADDITION TO RIDING IN HIS CAR, FOUR MEN WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH. RSO BELIEVES THAT ONE PSU IN AMBASSADOR'S CAR AND TWO CYPRIOTS
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IN FOLLOW CAR ARE ADEQUATE PROTECTION UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

DEPENDING ON SCOPE OF PROTECTION DEPARTMENT DEEMS APPROPRIATE FOR FAMILY, EVEN FOUR PSU MEMBERS MAY NOT BE ADEQUATE.

4. ONLY DIFFICULT UNUSUAL SITUATION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED TO DATE IS NEED TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR AMBASSADOR AND FAMILY AT BEACH HOUSE IN KYRENIA WHERE THEY SPEND MOST WEEKENDS.

5. IT IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVIDE PSU WITH NECESSARY SUPERVISION FROM A DISTANCE. BELIEVE THAT UNUSUAL NATURE OF THIS PSU AND COMPLEXITIES OF SUPERVISION, SCHEDULING NEEDED FOR PSU THAT EITHER PERMANENT OR TDY SECURITY OFFICER BE SENT NICOSIA AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. RSO BEIRUT CANNOT PROVIDE ON-THE-SPOT LONG TERM SUPERVISION NECESSARY WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING SECURITY OF OTHER POSTS IN REGION. IF ONE OF RSO'S AT BEIRUT IS ASSIGNED TO NICOSIA, THE OTHER HAS TO STAY IN BEIRUT AND OTHER POSTS WOULD NOT GET ON-THE-SPOT ASSISTANCE. WE ALSO HAVE PENDING DEPARTMENT REQUEST TO PROVIDE SOME COVERAGE AT TEHRAN.

6. RSS ADVISES THAT EAT CAR IS AVAILABLE FOR SHIPMENT TO NICOSIA. HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT CAR IS LEFT-HAND DRIVE AND RIGHT- HAND DRIVE VEHICLES ARE USED IN CYPRUS. BOTH RSS AND RSO FEEL THAT EAT CAR MAY NOT BE USABLE IN EMERGENCY AS DESIGNED BECAUSE OF OPPOSITE DRIVE CHARACTERISTICS. DRIVER OF FOLLOW CAR WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY IN SEEING AROUND PRINCIPAL'S CAR AND THUS MA NOT HAVE TIME TO REACT TO DANGEROUS SITUATION. POST HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO PURCHASE RIGHT- HAND DRIVE VEHICLE (NICOSIA 1023) AND THIS APPEARS TO BE BEST SOLUTION. WE WOULD NEED TO ARMOR THIS VEHICLE IF APPROVED.
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